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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY East Germany

25X1 SUBJECT Conversion of Furnaces to Raw Brown Coal Burning

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1. According to a resolution of the Council of Ministers dated 30 November 1953, all furnace installations in East Germany were to be converted to raw brown coal burning in order to save high-grade fuel. In early 1954, experiments with this kind of coal were made by the Ministry of Heavy Industry.

2. The above operations showed that an amount of 100,000,000 eastmarks would be needed for the conversions. Savings effected would amount to 43,000 tons of briquettes, 1,600,000 tons of hard coal, a sizable portion of which was low grade, and 2,500,000 tons of low-temperature carbonization coke. A total of 7,700,000 tons of raw brown coal would be needed in compensation.

25X1

Comment. A change over from hard coal to brown coal burning in East German industrial enterprises and railroad installations was started immediately after the close of the war. During the first post-war years, brown coal briquettes were used in place of hard coal. As, however, the production of brown coal briquettes has remained behind targets since early 1952, the quantities of briquettes available for industrial and traffic requirements were no longer adequate. The conversion of furnace installations to raw brown coal burning, which started in 1952, will apparently be increased considerably in 1954.

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